

wrong impression; that, so far from the Indians having been robbed, they were treated with the greatest kindness and consideration by the Colonial Government, and the best evidence of this is to be found in their perfect contentment during that period, their perfect obedience to the laws, and the readiness with which they adapted themselves to the habits and pursuits of the whites. We can well remember, during our wanderings in the interior, in the early days of the Colonial Government, that, so far from there being any evidences of dissatisfaction amongst them, or any tendency to avail themselves of the constantly recurring opportunities which would have tempted any other people, they actually made the very best police we had in the interior, and could be entirely depended upon. Many a poor white man, returning 'strapped' from the mines, has been the thankful recipient of their hospitalities, as they were always glad to give him a meal of salmon and potatoes, and, amongst the more industrious of them, much superior entertainment. It was not until after Confederation that anything in the shape of dissatisfaction appeared amongst them. We are not prepared to say by whom that dissatisfaction was engendered; it may very possibly have originated from injudicious remarks of persons who led them to understand that the treatment of the Indians in the Eastern Provinces was in some way different from that they were in the habit of receiving from the Government of this Province, but without conveying the matter in a clearly intelligible manner to them. But, even with all the incitements to discontent created in this way, it required considerable industry on the part of writers to shew that anything like discontent prevailed. There were some few instances in which the whites, by persevering industry, turned portions of the country to account, hitherto entirely neglected by the Indians, where these latter endeavored to establish claims in order to profit by the labor of their white neighbors. In some cases, lands have been taken from the white men, after money and labor had been expended upon them, and given to the Indians; these latter, under the old *régime*, would never have deemed they had any right to make a claim. Such proceedings are highly injudicious, because the Indians, being uneducated, never trouble themselves with the right or wrong of such expropriations; they can only understand that, by creating a claim, they can very often secure property that in no way belongs to them, and, when they are unsuccessful in this way, they feel aggrieved, but are unable to say in what way. Mr. Scott's idea in relation to the extinguishment of Indian claims by purchase, was very properly characterised by Senator Cornwall as mean, inasmuch as the paltry sums given by the Dominion Government for the magnificent territory they have acquired in this way from the Indians are not instances of their generosity to boast of, or such as to hold up to the rest of the world as worthy of imitation. Their success in this way has, no doubt, been remarkable,

but we think ours will bear favorable comparison. We have not endeavored to act, as it is said some of the first adventurers on this coast did in what is now the neighboring republic, inducing the Indians to barter their gold for worthless trinkets or draughts of 'fire water.' We made bargains for their land until it became evident that they were prepared to sell it all, in order to have the white men to live amongst them, and the Government wisely stepped in to prevent such wholesale alienation. The choicest portions of the country were set apart for them, and which they were not allowed to sell. Many of these reservations have never since been occupied, because the Indians preferred being employed by the white men for wages. They caught salmon during the fishing season, which they stored in trees (these stores always respected by white men); thus, with the product of their potatoes, they were always sure of food for the winter. During the summer they acted as farm hands, firemen on steamers, packers, herders, &c. All was peace and good will. Now they have, or are said to have, unlimited ideas of what they are entitled to from somebody, not always well defined, and are always ready to meet a commissioner or superintendent with a long catalogue of grievances. That they had grievances, and that it was necessary to adjust and define the boundaries of their reserves, no one will deny, and that the recent work of the commissioners has, under the circumstances, done much good, and prevented serious disputes, there can be no doubt. But we insist that the Federal servants have done much to lead the Indians to think they had been unjustly treated, and that the Indians are at this moment in blissful ignorance of how the injustice arose, we think, must be conceded. If the expenditure has been heavy (which we deny, having in this Province about as many Indians as there are in all the rest of the Dominion), it is entirely owing to the way in which the Federal Government insist upon treating them. Like everything else connected with this Province, they persist in applying treatment only suited to the Eastern Provinces."

The amendments were concurred in.

MORTGAGES OF REAL ESTATE BILL.

COMMONS AMENDMENTS.

A message was received from the Commons, returning Bill (11) "An Act relating to interest on moneys secured by mortgage of real estate," and stating that they had disagreed to two amendments; the first to clause 5, and the second to clause A.

Hon. Sir ALEX. CAMPBELL—We need say very little more about the amendments to which the House of Commons have agreed, but, with reference to

Hon. Mr. Cornwall.